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SUBJECT 1. Plans of Tibetan Government
2. Chinese Communist Strength in Tibet

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SOURCE Resident of Kalimpong close to Tibetan official circles from:

Paragraphs 1, 2: Ragashar Shape, Tibetan Minister of War.

Paragraph 3 : Well-informed Tibetan in Kalimpong.

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1. The present plan of the Government of Tibet is to reopen in Lhasa the discussions of the Sino-Tibetan treaty, on the condition that the Chinese Communist troops remain in place. They intend to refuse the Chinese request to send troops into Tibet, including 40,000 to 45,000 which were to be sent to the Indian border, and will send the Dalai Lama out of Tibet if the Chinese insist on this point. The Tibetans believe that their only hope lies in a policy of delay and playing for time until a world war or a major conflict between the United States and Communist China develops. They have hesitated to send the Dalai Lama to India for fear that the Indian Government would turn him over to the Chinese. The Tibetans are convinced that the Chinese have insufficient military strength in either eastern or western Tibet to force the issue at the present moment.
2. Chinese Communist troops in western Tibet have but one rifle and five rounds of ammunition for every three soldiers. In eastern Tibet, the Chinese forces in Ch'angtu (Chamdo), previously reported as numbering 30,000, have been reduced to 2,000, and promised replacements have not arrived.
3. Although it has been reported that there were 1,000 Chinese Communist troops in western Tibet, the actual number is about 500, and these are poorly equipped. Another group of 500 are in eastern Tibet near Assam, a day's march from the Bhutan border.

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